



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
ONGAR.

REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

For the Year 1921

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ONGAR

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1921.

FYFIELD, ONGAR,

May, 1922.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Ongar Rural
District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure to submit my Annual Report on the health of the District.

The year 1921 has, on the whole, been one of good health and low mortality, and of moderate incidence of infectious disease.

Cases of Scarlet Fever have, however, been numerous owing to the disease being imported from London, where it was prevalent, into schools in the District on various occasions. Strict isolation and exclusion of visitors were required to control these outbreaks. Deaths from tubercular diseases show a regrettable increase; the number of fresh cases notified is, however, moderate, and it is worthy of note that some cases of pulmonary disease have recovered under domiciliary treatment in their own homes.

In view of the connection of tubercular disease with defective housing, the virtual collapse of the greater part of the Council's Housing Scheme is to be deplored.

Economic reasons, no doubt potent, have led to the abandonment of Plans for building houses in the more rural parts of the District where accommodation is scanty, and often poor, and overcrowding is rife.

The hope entertained at the inception of the Scheme, that the new cottages when provided would raise the standard of Housing throughout the District, has thus been doomed to disappointment.

With regard to the Cottages found unfit at the Survey, the majority of these have been re-inspected, their condition noted, and Owners requested to remedy defects, with the result that 85 Cottages have been placed in a reasonably good state of repair, and may be expected to last some years longer.

Concurrently some 50 other Cottages not considered to be in such bad condition have been repaired either voluntarily or in consequence of informal action by your Officers.

Nine Cottages have either been demolished or left to become ruinous.

I append Tables of Vital Statistics and other information arranged as desired by the Ministry of Health.

Yours faithfully,

A. S. DAVID,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H

APPENDIX TO REPORT.

(1) General Statistics.

Area in acres	...	47,712
Population, 1921		9979
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921		2495
„ „ Families or separate Occupiers, 2000		
		£
Rateable Value	...	67,762
Assessable „	...	52,541
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	219

(2) Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

				Total.
Births	{	Legitimate	... 186	207
		Illegitimate	... 21	
Males.		Females.		
91		95	} Birth Rate (R.G.)	20.7
11		10		
Deaths, all ages,	119	Death Rate (R.G.)	11.9	
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence				
of, Childbirth	Nil
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—				
Rate per 1000 births	43.5
Legitimate, 8.	Illegitimate, 1.	Total, 9.		
Deaths from Measles	(all ages)	...	Nil	
„ „ Whooping Cough	„	...	Nil	
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years)		...	1	

(3)

Notifiable Diseases.

DISEASE.	TOTAL NOTIFIED.	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.	DEATHS.
Diphtheria	10	7	4
Scarlet Fever	68	64	Nil
Enteric Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	1	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	6	2	4
Poliomyelitis	1	Nil	1
Tuberculosis			

Total

(a) Pulmonary			
M. 2. F. 4.	6	1	6
(b) Non-Pulmonary			
M. 1. F. 0.	1	Nil	4

Non-notified Deaths from Tuberculosis are about one-third of the total registered.

Deaths classified in age period—

	DEATHS.
Under 1 year	9
1—2 „	2
2—3 „	1
3—4 „	2
4—5 „	1
5—10 „	5
10—15 „	0
15—20 „	0
20—35 „	7
35—45 „	11
45—65 „	24
65 and over	57

(4) No cause of Sickness has been specially noteworthy during the year.

(5) Nursing Arrangements.

Two nurse midwives practise in the District.

They are employed by local Nursing Committees affiliated to the Essex County Nursing Association, who make a grant, and the Guardians contribute two guineas to the funds.

In case of an epidemic of Measles the Medical Officer of Health is empowered to engage a temporary nurse for the care of patients in their own homes.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A Health Visitor is now provided by the County Council and resides in Ongar.

No Welfare Centre or Clinic of any kind exists.

HOSPITALS.

The District possesses no Hospital of its own. Infectious Fever Cases are taken by arrangement to the Romford Hospital at Dagenham, the patients being paid for at a fixed price per day; non-infectious cases that require hospital treatment go for the most part either to the London Hospital or Chelmsford Hospital.

Small Pox cases go to the Orsett Isolation Hospital.

The Council possesses a Motor Ambulance which is freely used for these purposes.

(6) Laboratory Work.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are provided free by the County Council; specimens are sent to the County's Laboratories, Queen Victoria Street.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied gratuitously by the Council, and is used both curatively and protectively with great benefit. A fair number of people received Influenza Vaccine with good results.

Adopted Acts, Bye-Laws and Regulations in Force.

The Building Bye-Laws, Rural Series	adopted	1902
Fruit and Vegetable Pickers' Bye-Laws	„	1906
The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations	„	1906
The Public Health Amendment Act, 1890	„	1901
Private Street Works Act, 1898 ...	„	1903

(7) Sanitary Administration.

Tabulary Summary of work of Sanitary Department is given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report appended.

(8) Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health. Part time. No assistant.
Sanitary Inspector, Assistant, and Clerk.

(9) Housing.

Number of New Houses erected during 1921 :—

a. Total	48
b. As part of Municipal Scheme ...	21

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

INSPECTION.

(1) Total number inspected (Survey and since)	1607
(2) Number inspected and recorded under Housing Regulations, 1910 ...	1607
(3) Number found in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	200
(4) Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation ...	150

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authorities or its Officers—

Under No. (3)	...	85
„ „ (4)	...	50

Action under Statutory Powers.

A. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 28 HOUSING TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil
2. Number of Houses rendered fit :—
 - (a) By Owners ...
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil
3. Number of Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of Declarations by Owners of intention to close ... Nil

B. PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 2
2. Number of Houses in which defects were remedied :—
 - (a) By Owners ... 1
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

C. PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 17 & 18 HOUSING
TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

1. Number of Representations made with a
view to the making of Closing Orders Nil
2. Number of Houses in respect of which
Closing Orders were made ... Nil
3. Number of Houses in respect of which
Closing Orders were determined, the
Houses being rendered fit ... Nil
4. Number of Houses in respect of which
Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
5. Number of Houses demolished in pur-
suance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ONGAR

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1921.

THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
ONGAR.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to hand you my Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the year 1921.

From the following Statements and also the Report of the Medical Officer of Health I think it will be obvious to the Council that a large amount of important Sanitary and Public Health Work has been carried out during the past year.

WATER SUPPLY.

Nine wells have been sunk for domestic supplies to private dwellings.

Twelve samples of water have been analysed by the Medical Officer of Health, nine certified as fit for domestic use ; three samples were found unsuitable.

In July, owing to a shortage of water at Matching Green, High Laver, the well at the Old Malting, Matching Parish, was repaired, cleaned out, and a pump provided, and the supply brought into use, after being certified by the Medical Officer of Health that the water was fit for domestic consumption.

HERTS AND ESSEX WATER COMPANY.

Four supplies only were laid on by this Company during the year ; no extension of mains took place

HAVERING WATER SUPPLY.

In August last the Council were approached by Lord O'Hagan, of Havering-atte-Bower, and the Romford Rural District Council, as to the entering into an agreement to take water in bulk at the Havering Bounds, whereby those properties at Stapleford Abbots at present being served by his Lordship's private supply, and which is being acquired by the Romford Rural District Council, could continue a supply, several further applications have been made for a supply of water from these Mains. The agreement with the Romford Rural District Council has not yet been concluded.

Sixty-one visits of Inspection in connection with Water Supplies were made.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints of pollution with Sewage have been received during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERS.

No extension of Sewers has been made during the year. An extension, so as to connect the new houses at Shelley, is still very necessary.

Blockages in both house drainage and sewers have been very prevalent, owing to the lack of rainfall, and also the fact that many closets are not yet provided with flushing cisterns.

All new drainage is tested with water, and existing drainage with smoke.

BOWES HOUSE DRAINAGE, ONGAR.

This Drainage, as laid by the War Office when the premises were in the occupation as a Prisoners of War Camp, was on the termination of their tenancy, and before occupation by the new Owner, taken up and relaid. It will be remembered that the War Office insisted upon laying down this fairly extensive drainage system with "Tar banded" stoneware pipes, bought and sold by the Makers as defective goods; to have used best pipes would have cost only about 30/- more, yet more than £30 was spent to pull up these pipes and lay new, the objections of this Council and the County Council proving of no avail.

Seventy-seven visits of Inspection, and testing of drainage, giving advice, etc., have been made.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Five new pail closets have been provided to existing premises, four being in substitution of vault privies.

Ten visits of Inspection were made.

Where new property is erected water closets are provided if a sewer is available, otherwise pails are used.

SCAVENGING.

The town of Ongar, which comprises parts of several parishes, is scavenged weekly, and the village of High Ongar fortnightly. The refuse is burnt in a home-made destructor at the Sewage farm.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools are inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector. No representations have been made during the year.

The County Council have not yet remodelled the Lavatories at High Ongar School as requested by the District Council.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 15 bakehouses in the District. No nuisances have been found during the year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Two new Slaughter-house Licenses have been granted during the year, making a total of nine in the District.

Thirty-nine visits were made during the year

Of the two knacker yards one has been closed, the one at Fyfield always being found to be kept in excellent condition. Twice visited during the year.

MILK SUPPLIES.

INSPECTION OF DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The number of registered cowkeepers is 96.

Seventy-five visits of Inspection were made

Various cases of limewhiting and repairs were carried out upon request.

Of the last 33 Inspections made, 79 sheds were found to be in use, and 1353 cows kept.

Three new cowsheds were erected during the year, shewing a great improvement on the old ones.

FOOD INSPECTION.

No diseased or unsound meat has been found during the year.

There appears to be an increasing demand for frozen or chilled meat.

The fresh meat is usually bred and grazed in the District.

Eighty carcasses of fresh meat were inspected when visiting the slaughter-houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Ten cases of Diphtheria and 68 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. The majority of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at the Hackney Children's Homes, Ongar, and the Ongar Grammar School.

Of the total of 78 cases, 71 were removed to hospital for treatment, 17 only being Rural District Council cases, the remaining 7 cases being nursed at home.

Disinfection of bedding and clothing by moist heat, also disinfection of premises are carried out after all cases of Infectious disease, including Cancer, Consumption, Scabies, etc., and also upon request.

Advice and assistance were rendered by the Medical Officer of Health and myself at the Hackney Children's Homes and the Ongar Grammar School during their outbreaks.

Enquiries and investigations are usually made jointly, by the Medical Officer of Health and myself.

Patients are removed into and from hospital by the Council's Motor Ambulance free.

NUISANCE INSPECTION—COMPLAINTS.

Twenty-three complaints were received.

Fourteen nuisances were found and 13 remedied.

Seven were non-existing.

Three remain unabated.

Thirty-three visits were made in connection with above.

MISCELLANEOUS.

One hundred and twenty-nine miscellaneous visits were made in investigating Infectious disease, interviews with doctors and parents, visiting Schools, etc.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

Two hundred and ninety-one visits of Inspection have been made in supervising the erection of new Dwellings under the Building Bye-Laws, repairs to existing property, etc.

SCHEDULED OR CONDEMNED HOUSES.

This matter is dealt with in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

The following Housing Plans were approved by the District Council for the year ended 31st December last :--

BRICK CONSTRUCTION.

Detached House	...	High Ongar.
„ „	...	Stapleford Abbotts.
„ „	...	Stanford Rivers.
Pair of Cottages	...	Blackmore.

ADDITIONS TO EXISTING BRICK HOUSES.

1 addition	...	Navestock.
1 „	...	Blackmore.
1 „	...	Shelley.
1 „	...	Kelvedon Hatch.

Conversion of Stable and Coach-house into
Gardener's Cottage at Abbess Roding.

TIMBER-BUILT ERECTIONS.

5 Timber-built Bungalows	Stondon Massey.
11 „ „	Kelvedon Hatch.

1	Timber-built Bungalow	Moreton.
1	„ „	Little Laver.
1	„ „	High Laver.
1	„ „	Stapleford Abbotts.
1	„ „	Blackmore.

All above being used as Domestic Dwellings.

2 Timber-built Huts Blackmore,

For week-end occupation only.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS—TIMBER AND CORRUGATED IRON CONSTRUCTION.

1	Parish Hall	...	Willingale and Shellow.
1	„	...	Fyfield.
3	Wireless Power Stations and 1 addition thereto at High Ongar (det.) for Marconi Wireless Co., Ltd.		
1	Slaughter-house	...	Fyfield.

COUNCIL'S HOUSING SCHEME.

The present position of the above Scheme is as follows:—

Number of State-aided Houses completed at 31st
December last—

Ongar	...	9	
Abridge	...	12	
		—	Total 21

Under construction—

Ongar	...	8	
Abridge	...	8	
		—	Total 16

Total number completed and under construction	37
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I have made 28 visits relating to Inspection of Work, Requisitions for Materials, meeting Architect, Housing Inspectors, and Builders.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. C. PHILLIPS,

M.S.I.A., ASSOC. R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.